



Accelerate Your Business

Indiana Economic Development Corporation

November 1, 2007

Dawn Adams
Staff Attorney
Office of Legal Affairs
Indiana State Department of Health

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Dear Ms. Adams:

Pursuant to IC 4-22-2-28, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation ("IEDC") has reviewed the economic impact analysis for small business associated with rule changes proposed by the Indiana State Department of Health ("ISDH") and contained in LSA Document 06-425, which adds 410 IAC 1-2.3-37.5 to define pandemic influenza activity and amends 410 IAC 1-2.3-47 to require the reporting of influenza associated human deaths to the ISDH. The proposed amendment requires each physician licensed under IC 25-22.5, and each administrator of a hospital licensed under IC 16-21 or the administrator's representative, to report laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths to the local health officer within 72 hours of first knowledge of death. The amendment also removes the requirement for laboratory confirmation of influenza for those cases of influenza diagnosed based on clinical presentation during an influenza pandemic.

Entities affected by the rule include physicians, osteopaths and hospital administrators. Although it is not possible to determine precisely how many small businesses will be affected by the rule, it is known that the combined total number of physicians and osteopaths in Indiana is 25,370. The provision requiring reporting within 72 hours of a laboratory-confirmed influenza death is not expected to impose significant administrative costs on affected entities. The electronic data reporting system has already been developed and is available for use by physicians, hospital administrators or administrators' representatives at no charge. The ISDH projects completion of the form should require five minutes. The ISDH reports that the rule will not impose economic costs on affected entities.

The IEDC does not object to the economic impact associated with the rule changes. This rule provides the foundation necessary to monitor the virulence of influenza strains circulating in Indiana. Additionally, it has the potential to save Indiana citizens' lives by providing much needed epidemiological data as evidence to implement appropriate infection control and other response measures.

If you have any questions about the comments contained herein please contact me at 232-8962 or rasberry@iedc.in.gov.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Asberry".

Ryan Asberry
Assistant Vice President
Indiana Economic Development Corporation